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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [SO](#) [EAID](#) [KPKO](#) [FR](#)
SUBJECT: SOMALIA: FRANCE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL
ASSISTANCE TO TFG

REF: STATE 79853

Classified By: Andrew Young, Political Counselor, 1.4 (b/d).

(C) MFA AF DAS-equivalent Helene Le Gal on August 3 said that France was unable to provide additional support to Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) as requested reftel. Le Gal noted that France had long been committed to providing security training, in Djibouti, to 500 Somali security forces. Training for the first group of 150 had begun, with the remainder to be trained in sequence once the first group finishes its training. Le Gal said that France was one of the few countries providing concrete assistance of this sort to the TFG and that, therefore, "France is the one in a position to ask others to do more, rather than be asked." She regretted that budget constraints would not permit France to augment the support already being provided. She commented that so far, the French training program in Djibouti was being conducted entirely by France -- no other Europeans were participating in the effort.

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